

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 DHA-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /080 W

-----004904 221900Z /45

O 221700Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3130

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L 9516

FROM USDEL

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PORG, RH, US, ZA

SUBJECT: LAGOS CONFERENCE: CONVERSATION WITH KAUNDA ON RHODESIA

REF: LAGOS 9476 (NOTAL)

1. AT THE OUTSET OF OUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA LAST NIGHT (REFTEL), AMBASSADOR YOUNG RESTATED THE US COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONCOMITANT ADHERENCE TO THE GOAL OF MAJORITY RULE IN ZIMBABWE. THE US IS WORKING FOR A JUST AND WORKABLE PACKAGE FOR A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT, AND THE SUPPORT OF THE FRONT LINE STATES WILL BE CRUCIAL IN THIS REGARD.

2. DICK MOOSE BRIEFED KAUNDA ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF OUR MEETINGS WITH THE BRITISH AND THE VANCE-OWEN TALKS WITH PIK BOTHA. HE
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AND YOUNG STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER ATTACHES TO FAIR ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE AND, CONSEQUENTLY, THE NEED TO ESTABLISH THE RIGHT KIND OF CONDITIONS FOR SUCH ELECTIONS. YOUNG ADDED THAT WE WANT A SOLUTION THAT WILL NOT LEAD TO A CIVIL WAR, AND THAT AN INTERNAL SOLUTION WOULD PERPETUATE THE WARFARE IN AMBABWE.

3. KAUNDA RESPONDED THAT ZAMBIA WELCOMES PRESIDENT CARTER'S STRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS; HE SEES THIS AS "A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH", WITH RESPECT TO RHODESIA, HE SAID "WE ARE OFF TO A GOOD START," AND MUST NOW SEE HOW A SETTLEMENT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED. "NOW," HE SAID, "WE MUST BELL THE CAT AND END THE FIGHTING."

4. HE CAUTIONED US NOT TO TIE OURSELVES TOO CLOSELY TO UK POLICY AS WE CONTINUE TO WORK FOR A SETTLEMENT: "AS LONG AS YOU ARE CONTENTED TO FOLLOW THE BRITISH LEAD WE WILL GO AROUND IN CIRCLES." HE SAID THAT HE MADE THIS OBSERVATION NOT FROM ANY ANTI-BRITISH BIAS, BUT FROM THE KNOWLEDGE THAT BRITAIN SIMPLY DOES NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH TO DO WHAT IT SHOULD IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

5. KAUNDA SAID NYERERE HAD BRIEFED HIM ON HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. LIKE NYERERE, HE REGARDS THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE RHODESIAN ARMY AS OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE. IN PROSECUTING THE RHODESIAN ARMY HAD DONE THINGS WHICH MAKE IT UNTHINKABLE THAT IT COULD REMAIN AS A PART OF THE NEW ARMY OF ZIMBABWE. HE THEN SAID, "WE ARE PLEASED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECOGNITION OF THIS." THE POLICE COULD REMAIN, BUT SOME - PERHAPS MANY - INDIVIDUALS WOULD HAVE TO GO.

6. KAUNDA ASSERTED THAT ALTHOUGH JOSHUA NKOMA IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF HIS AND OF OTHER FRONT LINE LEADERS, "THIS WOULD NOT TEMPT US TO IMPOSE HIM ON THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE." NKOMO, LIKE OTHER
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ZIMBABWE POLITICAL LEADERS, MUST TAKE HIS CHANCES AT THE POLLS. AFTER INFORMING US OF THE FRONT LINE MEETING IN LUSAK AUGUST 26TH AND INVITING YOUNG AND OWEN TO MEET WITH THEM ON THE 27TH (REFTEL), KAUNDA SAID THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD ALSO BE INVITED TO LUSAKA. WITH A WRY SMILE, HE SAID HE DOUBTED MUZOREWA OR SITHOLE WOULD COME TO LUSAKA. HE SEEMED TO AGREE WE SHOULD MEET WITH ALL PARTIES, AND SUGGESTED THAT IF WE GO TO SALISBURY, MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE COULD SEE US THERE.

7. BEFORE TURNING TO THE TOPIC OF NAMIBIA (SEPTTEL), KAUNDA STATED, "SOUTH AFRICA IS NOT PART AND PARCEL OF THE SOLUTION (OF RHODESIA), IT IS PART AND PARCEL OF THE PROBLEM." HE THEREFORE WELCOMED THE US POSITION THAT THE THREE MAJOR PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA MUST BE TREATED EACH ON ITS OWN INDIVIDUAL MERITS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LAGOS09516
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770302-1282
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770838/aaaabfsd.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3a70fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LAGOS 9476
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1529617
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAGOS CONFERENCE: CONVERSATION WITH KAUNDA ON RHODESIA
TAGS: PORG, RH, US, ZA, (YOUNG, ANDREW), (KAUNDA, KENNETH DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3a70fa56-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009